Government is implementing specific schemes to promote the handicraft sector, which include Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana, Marketing Support and Services Scheme, Design and Technological Upgradation, Research and Development and Human Resource Development.

Growth and promotion of service industries

3144. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the effect after inclusion of service industries under Small and Medium Enterprises;

(b) whether this policy was welcomed by the banks and the credit sanctioning authorities on the one side and the service industries on the other; and

(c) whether the growth and promotion of service industries have become better after coming into the SME fold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The service enterprises has been defined in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 for the first time thus providing a statutory platform to these enterprises for taking benefits of promotional measures announced by the Government. It has also provided a basis for classification of service enterprises based on the cost of equipments used by them. So far 95474 service enterprise during the year 2007-08 and 101448 No. of service enterprises during the year 2008-09 have filed entrepreneurs' memorandum, which is an essential requirement for availing of benefits under Government Schemes. The loans outstanding against the service enterprises from public sector banks have increased from Rs. 32,094.22 crore at the end of March, 2008 to Rs. 54306.53 crore (Provisional) at the end of March, 2009. Thus the incorporation of service sector into MSME fold has improved its access to Government programmes and credit.

Ongoing projects in Railways

3145. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current details of the ongoing works and projects in different zones of the Railways; and

(b) what are the plans for the remaining period of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The details of ongoing projects zonewise under Planheads, New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling are available in the Railway Budget Documents 2009-10.

(b) During 2009-10, 250 km. of new line, 1300 km of gauge conversion and 700 km. of doubling is targeted for completion.